

MINUTES

Present: Robert Peacock – Chair (RP), Dave Evans (DE), Stephen Parker (SP)

In attendance

Jennifer Hobson (JH) – Finance Administrator

1.	Apologies	Action
	Apologies: Terry Smithson (TS), Martha Cattell (MC), Lottie MacFarlane (LM), Cllr David Jeffels (DJ), Cllr Heather Phillips (HP), Robert Weatherley (RW)	
2.	Declarations of interest: None	
3.	Minutes	
(i)	Minutes of meeting on 08 August 2023 The minutes were AGREED as a true record.	
(ii)	Matters Arising not on the Agenda: None	
(iii)	Confirmation of Confidential items	
	The Board agreed that there were no items on the agenda classed as confidential. The full minutes will now be posted on the website.	
4.	Financial update	
(i)	Financial Statement – period ending August 23	
	A range of financial reports were presented to the board. No queries were raised. The current overall balance is £151,613.00 as at 31/08/23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unrestricted funds</i> – £59,343.92 • <i>Branching Out (Sirius)</i> - £242.00 • <i>FIPL (Working Woodland Heritage)</i> – (£6,885.41) • <i>Hey Smile Foundation</i> - £423.26 • <i>National Lottery Platinum Jubilee (SWW)</i> - £21,968.21 • <i>Helping Rivers Thrive (Yorkshire Water)</i> - £2,450.02 • <i>Locality Budget</i> - £900.56 • <i>Locality Budget 2022</i> - £399.55 • <i>Natural England</i> - £8,473.00 • <i>Woodsmith SED Programme</i> – £15,070.17 • <i>Yorkshire in Business</i> - £975.00 • <i>Positive Biodiversity Outcomes</i> - £48,252.72 • <i>Petty Cash</i> - £311.56 • <i>PayPal</i> - £4.55 	
(ii)	Capital Purchase	
	Nothing to report.	
5.	Governance	
(i)	Policy update	
	It was noted that the following policies required a review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety Policy • Tree Safety Policy • Risk Assessments • Volunteering RW to update the above. It was also noted that the latest version of the Lone Working Policy needed uploading to the central folder.	RW/DE

(ii)	Board Directors	
	It was reported that the Board continued to look for suitable Directors.	ALL
6.	HR	
(i)	Staffing update	
	It was reported that a staff meeting had been held on Monday. It was noted that a volunteer had come forward to assist with the Forestry Role and it was suggested that RW speak to this individual.	RW
7.	Project Updates	
(i)	Working Woodland Heritage FiPL/Hey Smile/Woodsmith SED Programme	
	The FiPL project is due to finish in October. It was noted that there was still plenty of funding available through FiPL and so it was suggested that RW look into further funding.	RW
(ii)	Scarborough's Wonderful Woodlands	
	This project is going well, no issues to report.	
(iii)	Yorkshire in Business/Bio Vale funds	
	RP reported that the video being produced under the Bio Vale Funding was now ready to distribute to the Directors for their views/comments. It was further noted that there was currently no audio track included.	RP
(iv)	AAF Positive Biodiversity Outcome/NNR Management Plan	
	There is to be a meeting on this on Saturday 07 October.	TS/RP/DE/SP
(v)	Northern section of Boardwalk Forge Valley	
	The NYNP volunteers have made a start on this work but it is likely to be a very long process to complete.	
(vi)	Secret Wood Event/Christmas Event	
	It was noted that the Secret Wood event went extremely well and it had been reassuring to see so many young families there. GA is trying to organise a suitable venue for the Christmas Event, not wanting to detract from the atmosphere of having the event within the woods but noting that bad weather severely impacted the event last year. Various suggestions were discussed. SP will liaise with GA further on this.	SP/GA
8.	Property/Lease	
(i)	Land by Throxenby Mere	
	No further update at this time.	
(ii)	NYC/NYMPA/Derwent Anglers lease discussions	
	RP still to meet with the Director of Park Services..	
(iii)	Thorn Park Farm Lease Agreement	
	A rental of approximately £10 per day had been proposed. This was agreed.	
(iv)	Office accommodation	
	The above lease agreement opens up some opportunity for Office space if deemed necessary in the future.	
(v)	Row Brow Archers	
	RP still to contact the group regarding the increase in costs to them.	RP
9.	Health & Safety	
(i)	Fire Risk Planning update	
	RW is still working on this.	RW
(ii)	Forge Valley & Raincliffe Tree Safety Works	
	The issues with tree safety are ongoing and in hand. RP presented a detailed report on the issues RWCE faced with regards to ash dieback given the conflicting advice received. Frustrations have arisen surrounding what work can be done. It was noted that RWCE have layers of organisations which must give the necessary permissions to conduct the work we would like to and these agreements are often conflicting and not forthcoming. It was agreed that another visit from Euroforest would be beneficial. RP would pass on the contact details to DE who will arrange this.	RP/DE

10.	Timber Harvest 2023/24	
(i)	2024/25	
	RP reported that due to the weather and subsequent ground conditions there would be no contractor income this year but that the hope was for more the following year if we can manage to get a significant harvest.	
(ii)	New 10 year licence and Higher Tier Stewardship 2025-2034	
	It was reported that the felling licence for the next year needs to be sorted soon as well as a 10 year plan which would allow increased stewardship funding. It was suggested that money is available from the Forestry Commission to help with this. RW to look into this.	RW/RP
11.	CSXCarbon/Y & NY LEP	
	No further feedback. SP to chase.	SP
12.	Cloud account access issues	
	It was noted that this needed to be a priority to get a suitable DropBox Cloud solution working.	JH
13.	Mountain Bike Tracks	
	No update but possible signage solutions were discussed.	
14.	Summer Holidays – Managing Anti-Social Behaviour/Risks	
	No further update/incidents to report.	
15.	Comms & Engagement	
(i)	LEP and Kindlegoods	
	RP and RW attended an interesting event. A working partnership was being discussed.	
(ii)	Anglo American	
	No further update.	
(iii)	North Yorkshire Highways/North York Moors National Park	
	Development of this working partnership is underway.	
(iv)	Woodland Partnership	
	It was noted that there had been a meeting of the Woodland Partnership.	
16.	Meeting Dates for 2024	
	The following dates were agreed for 2024 – all Tuesday's: 16 January, 19 March, 21 May, 18 June (AGM), 18 July, 17 September, 19 November	
17.	Any Other Business No further items were raised.	
18.	Dates of next meetings, all at 6pm unless otherwise stated, in the Conference Room	
	Dates for 2023 meetings as follows: Tues 05 December 2023	

All members of the Board are bound by the principle of Collective Responsibility. This means that whilst Board members are at liberty to express their individual points of view at Board meetings and are encouraged to engage in full and frank discussion, once a matter has been agreed, that decision is then owned by the Board. All Board members should present a united front outside of the meetings taking collective responsibility for that decision whether they personally agreed with it or not. Board members should not share with people outside of the Board the views expressed by individual Board members in discussions, or how they voted. Only the decision should be shared as recorded in the minutes.